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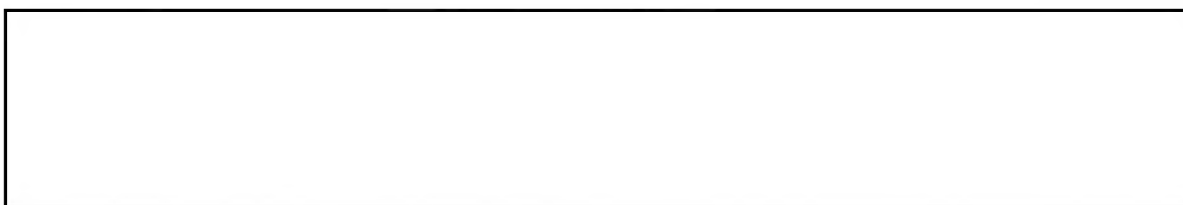
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Personnel Problems at the CCD

Problems are developing over UN Secretary General Waldheim's choice of his representative to the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament (CCD). An earlier informal agreement among the major concerned countries to replace Waldheim's present representative--who is retiring--with another Finnish national is in danger of unraveling under pressure from India to nominate its own candidate for the post. The Soviets have now indicated that they will "agree" to the Indian appointment.

The 31-nation disarmament committee meets under the co-chairmanship of the US and USSR and, while associated with the UN system, is not subordinate to any UN organ. The Secretary General has, however, with the concurrence of the co-chairmen, traditionally been permitted to send a representative to attend the Geneva meetings. While this special status for the Secretary General's representative has served to maintain a UN-CCD dialogue on disarmament matters, it has also embodied the commitment of the co-chairmen to uphold the independence of the disarmament committee vis-a-vis the General Assembly and the Secretary General.

The irony of the appointment of an Indian national to this relatively prominent international disarmament position will not be lost on other members of the CCD. India used last year's sessions of the CCD to defend its nuclear explosion of May as a "peaceful" one, and New Delhi is unlikely to alter its policy now to take account of the concerns of the major powers about nuclear proliferation.

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